

DUXBURY

Police chief job goes to DeLuca

Longo touts his pick's 'energy, enthusiasm'

By DEBORA BABIN KATZ
For The Patriot Ledger

DUXBURY — Mark DeLuca of Whitman will be Duxbury's next police chief.

DeLuca, one of three finalists for the job, was chosen by Town Manager Rocco Longo, who announced the appointment during selectmen's meeting last night.

Longo predicted that DeLuca's "energy and enthusiasm will be a big boost to the police department." He also said DeLuca "will be identified as a great leader and one who leads by example."

DeLuca, 40, is a Boston police sergeant and has been a police officer for 17 years. After obtaining a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Springfield College, he worked as a police officer in Miami for five years and served on the department's SWAT team for three. He joined the Boston police force in 1987 and was promoted to sergeant in 1992.

DeLuca will succeed Charles Mazzone as chief. Mazzone resigned late last year for health reasons.

"I'm thrilled to be here," DeLuca said.

Longo said the town "will be wrapping up the contractual agreement" with DeLuca, who will be on the job "in a month or so."

Longo did not say what DeLuca would receive as a starting salary, but he had given \$58,000 to \$70,000 as the salary range for the new chief.

DeLuca, who lives in Whitman with his wife and five children, said he had not decided whether to move to Duxbury.

The process of finding a new police chief began with Longo and a six-member search committee reviewing the 65 applications the town received. After narrowing the field to 14 applicants, the search committee conducted preliminary interviews, then chose three finalists.

Lengthy interviewing of the finalists followed. Longo said "significant investigative research was conducted" before he made his choice.

William Albritton, the search committee's personnel chairman and facilitator, estimated that the committee spent about 350 hours on the selection process. The other members of the search committee were Nancy Shine of the commission on disabilities, Pat Loring of the open space committee, Betsey Sullivan,

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who was chairwoman of the school committee at the time, Ann O'Neill of the personnel board and Selectman Andre Martecchini.

During his daylong interview with town department heads and residents, DeLuca stressed the importance of an open-door policy. He said the policy would enable him to identify and solve problems before they become major.

DeLuca also advocated developing better relations between police offi-

cers and students, which he said would enhance the effectiveness of the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program more successful.

He said he plans to make changes immediately, including having a supervisor for every shift.

The search committee also considered Milton police Lt. Robert Galvin.

Selectman Margaret Kearney said the town "had two excellent candidates."

The third finalist withdrew before his final interview to accept another position.